

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently amended) A method for documenting a transfer of authority of control for a container from a first entity of a transportation chain to a second entity of the transportation chain, the method comprising:

receiving through in an interface of an electronic seal associated with the container an electronic container control certificate associated with a first entity, the electronic seal including a log for recording data and a control unit for verifying data received through the interface, the electronic container control certificate comprises a cryptographic key associated to the second entity, and which container control certificate is digitally signed by the first entity; and

receiving in the electronic seal associated with the container, geographic location data from a location recording device associated with one of the first and second entities entities;

storing the container control certificate in the log of the electronic seal; and

verifying the signed container control certificate by a corresponding function implemented in the electronic seal.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) Method according to claim 3, comprising verifying the digital signature of the container control certificate by applying decrypt information stored in the log of the electronic seal and delivered to the log by a previous entity of the transportation chain.

5. (Original) Method according to claim 4, wherein the verification is considered to be failed if the signed container control certificate cannot be decrypted with the decrypt information stored in the log.

6. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 3, wherein a status of a container lock is subject to the result of the signature verification process.